

School of Languages and Linguistics

Jadavpur University

Supplementary issue

2018

**Guest Editors** 

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jjll.jdvu.ac.in

Journal Homepage: http://jjll.jdvu.ac.in/journal/index.php/JJLL



# Jadavpur Journal of Languages and Linguistics



# A Questionnaire Developed for Conducting Fieldwork on Endangered and Indigenous Languages in India<sup>1</sup>

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#### 1. Introduction

Given that there are at least a couple of questionnaires available (Abbi, 2001) and (DOCUMENTATION, 2016) SPPEL questionnaire, for working on the Indian languages, the motivation for a separate questionnaire for our project are several. This questionnaire focuses on working on the endangered and lesser-known languages by keeping it simple and basic. The simplicity of the questionnaire has been largely consolidated by numerous discussions with eminent linguists and experts in the field of language documentation such as Prof. Anvita Abbi, Prof BRK Reddy, Prof. Peter Austin, Prof. Frans Plank and Prof. KV Subbarao. For example, Instead of focusing on language family specific aspects such as echo-formation or relative clause constructions, the questionnaire mostly relies on a basic word list and a sentence list. The questionnaire has been subsequently revised after every field work and it has been kept open-ended. It is felt that every language irrespective of its genetic or areal proximity with other languages shows unique morpho-syntactic features. However, with the open endedness of the questionnaire, there lies a problem of doing a comparative study of the languages as well as managing the data. In our work, we have tried to keep a unique file number for each of the item (this is as atomic as a lexical category in a dictionary) to the broad categories (e.g. Anthropo-linguistic components to language vitality data). For additional items collected during the fieldwork, we also have created file names for each sub-item and sub-category. The other uniqueness of this questionnaire is that we have included a picture book and video clips for eliciting specific aspects of a language. A small video is prepared to collect the verbs, ECVs and verb serializations which are specific to our context. Often, we have noticed that unique lexical items have shown up during the picture book elicitation and those may not have shown up by using the translation method.

For the first time, a questionnaire for demographic profiling has been prepared and linguistic data has been represented by using GIS and remote sensing technologies. The survey questionnaire aims to capture the linguistic information against household at the micro level and the location and density of a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The document has been compiled under the aegis of UGC SRIELI project (2016-2021) funded by the University Grants commission, India. The document has been compiled under the aegis of UGC SRIELI project (2016-2021) funded by the University Grants commission, India. The version of this questionnaire is v.oct.18.1.

2 Saha (2018)

particular community across a state at the macro level.

#### 2. Outcome

The questionnaire is primarily designed to create a dictionary and a basic grammar. It tries to keep a balance between the community speakers' usability and the academic pursuit. In the dictionaries, often we have used two or three scripts which are dominant in a particular region. However, we have also used the International Phonetic Alphabet quite extensively to make it globally accessible. Through the grammar series, our aim is to capture all the important aspects of a given language we have given special emphasis on three aspects i.e. phonology, morphology and syntax pertaining to Noun phrase and Verb Phrase in the questionnaire. Every grammar also captures information which is unique for that language and community. The questionnaire is used to develop the field reports and helps for preparing a consolidated report for documentation projects along with an anthropo-linguistic description.

The questionnaire comprises of the following five chapters-

- 1. Chapter 1: Introduction and bibliography
- 2. Chapter 2: Details of the Resource Person & Vitality, Diversity and Language Attitude
- 3. Chapter 3: Words and Sentence List Questionnaire
- 4. Chapter 4: Anthropo-linguistic Questionnaire
- 5. Chapter 5: Demographic profiling of the language community
- 6. Chapter 6: Ethical part
- 7. Chapter 7: Additional Materials

The questionnaire has been prepared by consulting various resources and these resources are listed as under.

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# Questionnaire on Details of the Resource Person & Vitality, Diversity and Language Attitude<sup>1</sup>

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This part draws information pertaining to the linguistic profile of the community at large. In this section, details of the language resource persons such as name, age, education and occupational information are collected but they are kept as part of the metalinguistic documentation and names are kept anonymous in reports. An emphasis has been given on questions related to migration due to three major factors in the Indian context such as livelihood, education, and marriage.

In order to understand the verbal repertoire, questions related to languages known (1) and fluency of the languages by each family members can be elicited by question number (2). A combined understanding of the medium of instruction in schools and influence on the language due to interaction under study can be understood by recording the response in Table 1 and also through question numbers (11-14) and (17, 21, 29). The reason for keeping similar questions in a shuffling manner is to avoid a specific agenda or bias which is often considered as the shortcoming of a questionnaire. On many occasions, it is seen that the language under study is a variety of some other language or the language exists by some other name. This issue can be addressed by recording the response under question number 7 and if the language has a script or not by asking question number (15). Even though this questionnaire is largely interview-based, a specific question like language mixture (22) has been kept for recording the response via observation. Issues like language vitality (a major concern raised in (Moseley, 2010) and language attitude ((Rasinger, 2010) argues that for measuring the people's attitudes and perception of languages (or variations of particular languages, such as dialects and accents) or groups of speakers a questionnaire is used as a prominent example for the effective (and extensive!) study of the 'ethnolinguistic vitality') are enumerated via questions (6), (9), (10), (12), (18), (19), (23), (24-31).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The document has been compiled under the aegis of UGC SRIELI project (2016-2021) funded by the University Grants commission, India. The document has been compiled under the aegis of UGC SRIELI project (2016-2021) funded by the University Grants commission, India. The version of this questionnaire is v.oct.18.1.

# **Details of the Resource Person**

1	Name of the Resource Person		
2	Age		
3	Sex		
4	Education		
5	Occupation		
6	Religion		
7	Birth Place		
8	Address		
9	Fath er's Nam e		
10	Fath er's Native village		
11	Father's Native Language		
12	Father' Occupation		
13	Mother's Name		
14	Mother's Native village		
15	Mother's Native Language		
16	Mother's Occupation		
17	Spouse's Name		
18	Spouse's Native village		
19	Spouse's Native Language		
20	Spouse's Occupation		
21	Data Collected		

# **Questionnaire**

1) How many languages do you know? Hear:

Speak: Read:

- Write:
- 2) Are all the family members fluent/partially fluent in these languages?
- 3) What are the languages which are taught in the schools?

Primary School:

Secondary School:

Any other Level:

- 4) Where is the school situated? Name of the location and the distance from the village where the community dwells.
- 5) In which language the interaction takes place between the following members?

Categories	Languages Spoken				
	Within the school	Outside the school			
Teacher-Student					
(different community)					
Teacher-Student					
(Same community)					
Student-Student					
(different community)					
Student-Student					
(Same community)					
Parents-Teachers					
(different community)					
Parents-Teachers					
(Same community)					

- 6) Is your language represented in mass media? (T.V./radio/print) and digital media?
  - a) Types of Program (Broadcast/ Telecast):
  - b) Duration of the program (Broadcast/ Telecast):

- 7) What are the alternative names of your languages?
- 8) What are the various locations or settlements of this particular speech community?
- 9) Is the language spoken by all age groups? If no, what are the reasons?
- 10) Do all the community members speak (name of the language) the language? Do other community members speak this language?
- 11). What language do you speak at different domains:

1)	Home	With Grandparents	
		With Parents	
		With Siblings	
		With Spouse	
		With Children	
		wid p. 1.d	maternal
		With Relatives	paternal
2)	Market	With Known	
		Shopkeepers	
		With Unknown	
		Shopkeepers	
		With Strangers	
		With People of same	
		community	
3)	Place of Occupation	With Colleagues/	
		Fellow mates	
		Boss/Head	
		Inferior	
4)	Other Village	Same community	
		Members	
5)		Other community	
		members	
6)	Please add According to the situation		

- 12. Do you wish to use your language for school/business/employment purpose?
- 13. Which language is used to tell stories and give advice?
  - i) By you

- ii) By your spouse
- iii) By your mother
- iv) By your father
- 14. How is the knowledge of the community preserved? What is the language in which knowledge is preserved? (*Not be asked only for Observation*)
- 15. Does your language have a written form/script? (Bangla/ Devanagari/ Roman / others)
- 16. Are there published books/newspapers/translated documents/ dictionaries/grammars/ primers etc. literary societies?

Categories	Yes/NO
Books	
News paper	
Translated	
Docum ents	
Dictionaries	
Grammars	
Prim er s	

17. What are the languages that you use in different domains for entertainment? Folk song/news/drama or movies etc.

Topic	Medium		Frequency of Languages									
		L-1			L-1		L-2			L-3		
		Reg	Occ	Never	Reg.	Occ.	Nev	Reg.	Occ.	Never		
News												
Folk Song												
Film Song												
Debate / speech												
Movies and serials												
Religious matter												
Drama												
Any other												

- 18. Is there any group or association from the community which wish to promote your language?
- 19. Do you prefer any other language in these places?
- 20. What are the sources of learning different languages for the members of your community?
- 21. What is the age group in which generally members of your community learn a new language other than your native language?

Which ago			Language		
Which age	L-1	L-2	L-3	L-4	L-5
Childhood					
Latter age					

- 22. Language mixture: (Not be asked only for Observation)
- 23. Do you want your children to learn your language?
- 24. If there are many varieties in your language, which variety is the most prestigious one? Why?
- 25. Do people from neighboring villages try to learn the prestigious variety?
- 26. Do you think your language is a barrier in social and economic domains?

**	
Barrier in talking to higher	
authorities of the village	
Barrier in facing job related	
interviews	
Barrier in talking to higher	
caste people	
Barrier in talking to higher	
economic class people	
Please add According to the	
situation	

- 27. Is your language difficult to learn?
- 28. What is the literacy level of different generations of your family? Do different generations read newspapers in different languages?

	Langu ages							
Categories		News Papers		1	Magazines			
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
Self								
Parents								
Oth ers								

29. How do you wish to use your mother tongue?

Categories	Primary (I-IV/V)	Upper Primary (V/VI-VIII)	Secondary (IX-X)	Higher Secondary (XI-XII)	College/ University
As a first language					
As a second language					
As a medium of instruction					

- 30. Do you think one language can be used for all purposes? If yes, is it your language?
- 31. Do you think one language can be used for all purposes? If yes, is it your language? If No then which language?

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# Words and Sentences<sup>1</sup>

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The objective of this part of the questionnaire is to collect the words and sentences in natural languages.

#### Wordlist

Basic words are good, to begin with, but afterwards, culture-specific words are needed to be collected. Surroundings and the geography is a good hint for collecting words. For example, when our team went to Purulia, we found that the area is prone to fire which gave us a hint that we can collect many terms related to the fire. We collected 9 different terms for 9 types of fire.

The following words are categorized in the different semantic domains. More domains can be added and subdomain of these domains can also be made.

#### **Physical Environment**

- 1.1 World
- 1.2 Earth
- 1.3 Soil
- 1.4 Dust
- 1.5 Mud
- 1.6 Sand
- 1.7 Hill, Mountain
- 1.8 Plain, Field
- 1.9 Valley
- 1.10 Island
- 1.11 Mainland
- 1.12 Bank (of River), Shore
- 1.13 Cave
- 1.14 Water
- 1.15 Sea
- 1.16 Foam

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- 1.17 Ocean
- 1.18 Lake
- 1.19 Pond, Pool
- 1.20 Wave
- 1.21 Tide
- 1.23 River, Stream, Brook
- 1.24 Whirlpool
- 1.25 Spring, Well
- 1.26 Swamp
- 1.27 Waterfall
- 1.28 Forest, Woods
- 1.29 Wood
- 1.30 Stone, Rock
- 1.31 Earthquake
- 1.32 Sky
- 1.33 Sun
- 1.34 Moon
- 1.35 Star
- 1.36 Lightning
- 1.37 Thunder
- 1.38 Thunder (V.)
- 1.39 Lightning (As Striking)
- 1.40 Storm
- 1.41 Rainbow
- 1.42 Light, Sunlight (Noun)
- 1.43 Darkness
- 1.44 Shade, Shadow
- 1.45 Dew
- 1.46 Air
- 1.47 Wind
- 1.48 Cloud
- 1.49 Fog
- 1.50 Rain (Noun)
- 1.51 Snow (Noun)
- 1.52 Ice
- 1.53 Hail
- 1.54 Weather
- 1.55 Fire
- 1.56 Flame (Noun)
- 1.57 Smoke (Noun)
- 1.58 Ashes
- 1.59 Burn (V. Trans)
- 1.60 Burn (V. Intrans)
- 1.61 Ignite, Light, Kindle
- 1.62 Extinguish
- 1.63 Firewood
- 1.64 Charcoal
- 1.65 Tree (Types)
  - 1.65.1 Banyan Tree
    - 1.65.2 Neem Tree
    - 1.65.3 Pipal Tree
- 1.66 Plant (Noun)
- 1.67 Plant (V.)
- 1.68 Root
- 1.69 Leaf
- 1.70 Thorn
- 1.71 Flower (Types)
  - 1.71.1 Rose

- 1.71.2 Marigold 1.71.3 Lotus
- 1.72 Tree
- 1.73 Bark
- 1.74 Bush
- 1.75 Branch

# **Human Beings**

- 2.1 Human Being (Common For Both Gender)
- 2.2 Man
- 2.3 Woman
- 2.4 Male
- 2.5 Female
- 2.6 Boy
- 2.7 Young Man (Adolescent)
- 2.8 Girl
- 2.9 Young Woman (Adolescent)
- 2.10 Child
- 2.11 Infant
- 2.12 Teenager
- 2.13 Old Man
- 2.14 Old Woman
- 2.15 Middle-Aged Man
- Middle-Aged Woman 2.16
- 2.17 Woman Before Marriage
- 2.18 Man Before Marriage
- 2.19 Baby
- 2.20 Eunuch

#### **Pronouns**

- First Per Sing (I) 3.1.1
- First Per Plu (We) 3.1.2
- First Per Sing (HON/ Inclusive/Exclusive/ Gender) 3.1.3
- 3.1.4 First Per Plu (HON/ Inclusive/Exclusive/ Gender)
- 3.2 2nd Person:
  - 3.2.1 Second Per Sing
  - 3.2.2 Second Per Plu
  - Second Per Sing (HON/ Inclusive/Exclusive) 3.2.3
  - Second Per Plu (HON/ Inclusive/Exclusive) 3.2.4
- 3.3 3rd Person Animate:
  - Third Per Sing (Common Gender) 3.3.1
  - Third Per Plu (Common Gender) 3.3.2
  - 3.3.3 Third Per Sing (HON/ Inclusive/Exclusive/ Gender)
  - 3.3.4 Third Per Plu (HON/ Inclusive/Exclusive/ Gender)
- 3.4 3rd Person Inanimate:
  - Third Per Sing (Common Gender) 3.4.1
  - 3.4.2 Third Per Plu (Common Gender)
  - 3.4.3 Third Per Sing
  - 3.4.4 Third Per Plu

### Animals, Birds and Related

4.1.2 Cattle (Bovine)

- Bull 4.1.3
- 4.1.4 Ox
- 4.1.5 Cow
- 4.1.6 Horn
- 4.1.7 Tail
- 4.1.8 Calf
- 4.1.9 Water Buffalo
- 4.1.10 Sheep
- 4.1.11 Lamb
- 4.1.12 Boar
- 4.1.13 Sow
- 4.1.14 Pig
- 4.1.15 Goat 4.1.16 He-Goat
- 4.1.17 Kid
- 4.1.18 Horse
- 4.1.19 Stallion
- 4.1.20 Mare
- 4.1.21 Donkey
- 4.1.22 Mule
- 4.1.23 Fowl
- 4.1.24 Rooster, Cock
- 4.1.25 Hen
- 4.1.26 Chicken
- 4.1.27 Goose
- 4.1.28 Duck
- 4.1.29 Dog
- 4.1.30 Cat
- 4.1.31 Pigeon
- 4.1.32 Rabbit
- 4.1.33 Nest
- 4.1.34 Parrot
- 4.1.35 Rat 4.1.36 Mouse
- 4.1.37 Fish (Their Types)
- 4.1.38 Fish Scale
- 4.1.39 Crow
- 4.2.40 Bird
- 4.2.41 Eagle
- 4.2.42 Hawk
- 4.2.43 Vulture 4.2.44 Kite
- 4.2.45 Bat
- 4.2.46 Panther
- 4.2.47 Tiger
- 4.2.48 Wild Cat
- 4.2.49 Crab
- 4.2.50 Wolf
- 4.2.51 Lion
- 4.2.52 Bear
- 4.2.52 Fox
- 4.2.53 Squirrel
- 4.2.54 Deer 4.2.55 Wild Ox, Gaur
- 4.2.56 Monkey
- 4.2.57 Elephant
- 4.2.58 Trunk Of Elephant
- 4.2.59 Camel

- 4.2.60 Alligator, Crocodile 4.2.61 Turtle
- 4.2.62 Frog

# **Insects and Reptiles**

- 5.1 Insect
- 5.2 Centipede
- 5.3 Scorpion
- 5.4 Cockroach
- 5.5 Ant (Different Types)
- Spider 5.6
- 5.7 Spider Web
- 5.8 Bee
- 5.9 Wax (Bees)
- 5.10 Beehive
- 5.11 Wasp
- 5.12 Termite
- 5.13 Fly (Noun)
- 5.14 Mosquito
- 5.15 Wood Borer
- 5.16 Caterpillar
- 5.17 Worm
- 5.18 Cricket
- 5.19 Water Leech
- 5.20 Land Leech
- 5.21 Snake (Types)
- 5.21.1 Cobra
- 5.21.2 Python
- 5.22 Firefly
- 5.23 Butterfly
- Grasshopper 5.24
- 5.25 Snail
- 5.26 Lizard

# Vegetables

- 6.1 Potato
- 6.2 Onion
- 6.3 Tomato
- 6.4 Garlic
- 6.5 Ginger
- Chilly 6.6
- 6.7 Brinjal
- 6.8 Bitter Gourd
- 6.9 Gourd
- 6.10 Pumpkin
- 6.11 Edible Root
- 6.12 Carrot
- 6.13 Beet
- 6.14 Beans
- 6.15 Raddish
- 6.16 Drumstick
- Types Of Edible Leaves (Saag) 6.17
- Ash Gourd 6.18
- 6.19 Pointed Gourd

- 6.20 Vegetables
- 6.21 Colocasia
- 6.22 Bottle Gourd
- 6.23 Yam

#### **Fruits**

- 7.1 Mango
- 7.2 Papaya
- 7.3 Apple
- 7.4 Pear
- 7.5 Grapes
- 7.6 Banana
- 7.7 Jackfruit
- 7.8 Custard Apple
- 7.9 Cucumber
- 7.10 Watermelon
- 7.11 Muskmelon
- 7.12 Orange
- 7.13 Pomelo
- 7.14 Jam
- 7.15 Berry
- 7.16 Coconut
- 7.17 Betel Nut
- 7.18 Guava
- 7.19 Sapeda
- 7.20 Jamrul
- 7.21 Dry Fruits (Types)
- 7.22 Nuts (Types)

## **Body Functions**

- 8.1 To Breathe
- 8.2 To Yawn
- 8.3 To Hiccough
- 8.4 To Cough
- 8.5 To Sneeze
- 8.6 To Perspire
- 8.7 To Spit
- 8.8 To Vomit
- 8.9 To Sleep
- 8.10 To Snore
- 8.11 To Dream
- 8.12 To Wake Up
- 8.13 To Awake
- 8.14 To Flatulence
- 8.15 To Urinate
- 8.16 To Defecate
- 8.17 To Shiver
- 8.18 To Take Birth
- 8.19 To Give Birth
- 8.20 To Get Pregnant
- 8.21 To Conceive
- 8.22 To Live
- 8.23 To Die
- 8.24 To Get Drowned

8.25 To Get Hungry8.26 To Get Thirsty8.27 To Blink Eye9999999998.28 To Itch

## **Bodily Attributes**

9.1 Strong 9.2 Weak 9.3 Thin 9.4 Fat 9.5 Complexion Related: 9.5.1 Fair 9.5.2 Dark 9.5.3 Not Much Fair 9.6 Lazy 9.7 Bald 9.8 Lame 9.9 Deaf 9.10 Mute 9.11 Blind 9.12 Handicap 9.13 Mental Illness (Types: Retarded, Dementia Etc.) 9.14 Handicap 9.15 Clever 9.16 Restless 9.17 Trustworthy 9.18 Liar 9.19 Energetic

#### **Health and Sickness**

Fever

10.21 Medicine 10.22 Flu

Skittish

9.20

10.1

```
10.2
      Goitre
10.3
      Cold
10.4
      Diarrhoea
10.5
      Wound, Sore
10.6
      Bruise
      Swelling
10.7
10.8
      Cataract
10.9
      Blister
10.10 Boil (Noun)
10.11 Pus
10.12 Scar
10.13 Headache: (Types Of Headache)
10.14 Stomach Ache
10.15 Vomit (Noun)
10.16 Cough (N)
10.17 Bone Fracture
10.18 Addiction
10.19 Pox:
      10.19.1
                    Smallpox
      10.19.2
                    Chicken Pox
10.20 Jaundice
```

- 10.23 Cure
- 10.24 Mental Diseases (Alzheimer's, Dementia, Retarded)
- 10.25 Patient
- 10.26 STD (Types)

## **Kitchen Related**

- 11.1 Gas
- 11.2 Stove
- 11.3 Utensils
- Types Of Pan 11.4
- Types Of Plates 11.5
- Glass 11.6
- 11.7 Types Of Spoons
- Types Of Bowls 11.8
- 11.9 Jar
- 11.10 Firewood
- 11.11 Cloth For Wiping Kitchen
- 11.12 Knife
- 11.13 Boti
- 11.14 Kulo
- 11.15 Basket (Types)
- 11.16 Cow Dung Used As Fuel

#### **Food Items**

- 12.1
- Egg: Parts Of Egg Rice: Cooked/Uncooked 12.2
- 12.3 Pulses
- Vegetables: Types (Cooked) 12.4
- 12.5 Salt (Types)
- 12.6 Honey
- 12.7 Sugar
- 12.8 Milk (Noun)
- 12.9 Milk (V.)
- 12.10 Cheese
- 12.11 Butter
- 12.12 Oil (Types)
- 12.13 Spices:

12.13.1	Turmeric
12.13.2	Coriander
12.13.3	Cumin

- 12.14 Ghee
- 12.15 Pepper
- 12.16 Ajwain
- 12.17 Hing

# **House Related**

- House (Cemented) 13.1
- Hut (Made Of Mud) 13.2
- Garden Of House 13.3
- 13.4 Tent
- 13.5 Courtyard/ Veranda
- 13.6 Room

- 13.7
- Types Of Room: 13.7.1 Drawing Room
  - 13.7.2 Kitchen
  - 13.7.3 Bedroom
  - 13.7.4 Bathroom
  - 13.7.5 Toilet
  - 13.7.6 Puja Room
  - 13.7.7 Antor Ghor (After Delivery Room)
  - 13.7.8 Cow Shed
  - 13.7.9 Cattle Shed
  - 13.7.10 Grain Storage
- 13.8 Roof
- 13.9 Door, Gate
- 13.10 Doorpost, Jamb
- 13.11 Drawing In The Wall
- 13.12 Chimney
- 13.13 Ladder
- 13.14 Bed
- 13.15 Pillow
- 13.16 Bed Cover
- 13.17 Curtain
- 13.18 Mattress
- 13.19 Mat
- 13.20 Mora
- 13.21 Blanket
- 13.22 Thatch
- 13.23 Beam
- 13.24 Pole, Post (Horizontal And Vertical)
- 13.25 Brick For Making House
- 13.26 Mud Used For Making House
- 13.27 Lock
- 13.28 Key
- 13.29 Loca Calendar
- 13.30 Almirah

### **Occupation Related**

- 14.1 Agriculture
- 14.2 Farmer
- 14.3 Field (For Cultivation)
- 14.4 Field, Dry
- 14.5 Garden
- 14.6 Cultivate, Till
- 14.7 Fence
- 14.8 Ditch
- 14.9 Plough
- 14.10 Furrow
- 14.11 To Dig
- 14.12 Spade
- 14.13 Shovel
- 14.14 Hoe
- 14.15 Hammer
- 14.16 Rake
- 14.17 Sow (Seed)
- 14.18 Seed
- 14.19 Reap
- 14.20 Scythe, Sickle

- 14.21 To Thresh
- 14.22 Threshing-Floor
- 14.23 Crop, Harvest
- 14.24 Grain (Barley, Oats Etc)
- 14.25 Paddy
- 14.26 Husked Rice
- 14.27 Rice Seedlings
- 14.28 Bran, Husk
- 14.29 Rice Straw
- 14.30 Hay
- 14.31 Bullock Cart
- 14.32 Doctor
- 14.33 Patient
- 14.34 Medicine
- 14.35 Stethoscope
- 14.36 Carpenter
- 14.37 Blacksmith
- 14.38 Basket Maker
- 14.39 Nail
- 14.40 Painter
- 14.41 Coppersmith
- 14.42 Goldsmith
- 14.43 Thief
- 14.44 Dacoit
- 14.45 Leader
- 14.46 Panchayat Head
- 14.47 Politician
- 14.48 Cook
- 14.49 Washerman/Washerwoman
- 14.50 Nurse
- 14.51 Delivery Nurse
- 14.52 Servant
- 14.53 Maid Servant
- 14.54 Labourer
- 14.55 Potter
- 14.56 Wheel Of Potter

# **Types of Verbs**

- Static 15.1
  - 15.1.1 To Sleep
  - 15.1.2 To Stand
  - 15.1.3 To Sit
  - 15.1.4 To Stay

  - 15.1.5 To Live 15.1.6 To Love
  - 15.1.7 To Believe
  - 15.1.8 To Dream
- 15.2 Dynamic
  - 15.2.1 To Run
  - 15.2.2 To Eat
  - 15.2.3 To Drink
  - 15.2.4 To Kill
  - 15.2.5 To Write
  - 15.2.6 To Read
  - 15.2.7 To Cook

- 15.2.7.1 To Fry 15.2.7.2 To Boil
- 15.2.8 To Break
- 15.2.9 To Jump
- 15.2.10 To Walk
- 15.2.11 To Kick
- 15.2.12 To Hit
- 15.2.13 To Give
- 15.2.14 To Bring
- 15.2.15 To Buy
- 15.2.16 To Exchange
- 15.2.17 To Dance
- 15.2.18 To Sing
- 15.2.19 To Worship
- 15.2.20 To Teach
- 15.2.21 To Scold
- 15.2.22 To Ride
- 15.2.23 To Catch Fish
- 15.2.24 To Push
- 15.2.25 To Pull
- 15.2.26 To Fight
- 15.2.27 To Argue
- 15.2.28 To Milk A Cow
- 15.2.29 To Feed Cattle
- 15.2.30 To Clean
- 15.2.31 To Shout
- 15.2.32 To Fight
- 15. 2.33 To Marry
- 15. 2.34 To Build House
- 15.2.35 To Cut Paddy

# **Numbers and Quantification**

- 16.1 **Nothing**
- 16.2 One
- 16.3 Two
- 16.4 Three
- 16.5 Four
- Five 16.6
- 16.7 Six
- 16.8 Seven
- 16.9 Eight
- 16.10 Nine
- 16.11 Ten
- 16.12 Eleven
- 16.13 Twelve
- 16.14 Fifteen
- 16.15 Twenty
- 16.16 Hundred
- 16.17 Thousand 16.18 Count
- 16.19 All, Every
- 16.20 Many, Much
- 16.21 More
- 16.22 Few, Little (Quantity)
- 16.23 Enough
- 16.24 Some

- 16.25 Crowd, Multitude
- 16.26 Full
- 16.27 Full (From Eating)
- 16.28 Empty
- 16.29 Part. Piece
- 16.30 Half
- 16.31 Alone, Only
- 16.32 First
- 16.33 Last
- 16.34 Second
- 16.35 Pair
- 16.36 Zero

# **Supernatural Elements**

- 17.1
- God (Types) Ghost (Types) 17.2
- 17.3 Angels
- 17.4 Devil
- 17.5 Ancestor

Different types of festivals Different types of games **Different customs and items used** (e.g. **Sindoor** used by married woman) **Different names of rituals and items used (etc. term for Dowry)** 

### **Sentence-List**

It is important to begin data elicitation process through translation method. However, it should be followed by other methods as well like a collection of narration, data elicitation through picture-book, by asking language experts to describe a silent video etc. A basic list of sentences can be found in many other sources also (Abbi 2001, CIIL 2016, SBertinetto, M. P. 2015, Dimitriadis, A., & Evaraert, M. 2002). But it is always good to customize the sentences as per the need of the investigator. The customization should involve changing the names into local names. The names of the objects should look familiar to the language experts. The sentences mentioned are taken from different sources (Abbi 2001, Bertinetto, M. P. 2015, Dimitriadis, A., & Evaraert, M. 2002).

#### 1. SIMPLE AND COMPLEX SENTENCES

It is important to know the basic structure of a language before collecting the detailed data of the language. Simple and complex sentences are good, to begin with as they help us easily understand the basic syntactic structure of a language.

Following are some of the example sentences which need to be modified according to the environment. The other references used should also be familiar to the language expert. The sentences mentioned are taken from different sources

1.1	I like mango (any local fruit).	
1.2	The monkey is on the tree.	

1.3	That house is big.	
1.4	I am Radha (any local name).	
1.5	Her name is Krishna (any local name).	
1.6	I have a headache.	
1.7	She saw a man.	
1.8	He saw a girl for marriage.	
1.9	It is raining.	
1.10	Today is Monday.	
1.11	We cooked rice in the morning.	
1.12	He saw that they are playing with a stone.	
1.13	She said that the woman is sleeping on the floor.	
1.14	I want to go to the town tonight.	
1.15	I know that tomorrow is a holiday.	
1.16	He tried to kill the elephant.	
1.17	I and my brother will play together.	
1.18	It was raining so I could not go to the field.	
1.19	I will go when the mother will come.	
1.20	If it rains well then there will be good cultivation.	

## 2. CASE

The following sentences are a few examples based on which case markers of Indian languages can be collected. It should be noted that the investigator should also look for non-canonical case markers as well. Dative construction can be found in many Indian languages which are marked by genitive or dative marker. There can be many such constructions in a language which needs special attention. One can refer to Blake (1994) and Butt (2006) for general discussions on the case.

2.1	Radha is sleeping.	
2.2	He is sleeping.	
2.3	He kicked the ball.	

2.4	She loves me.	
2.5	Radha loves her (someone else).	
2.6	They love us.	
2.7	He cut the tree with an axe.	
2.8	I came by bus.	
2.10	Raja gave a flower to his wife.	
2.11	Radha went with Ramesh Toto with the	
	town.	
2.12	Father bought a toy for his son.	
2.13	He is working only for his family.	
2.14	I am hungry.	
2.15	I have a headache.	
2.16	She will come from Kolkata.	
2.17	Leaves are falling down from the tree.	
2.18	I saw her brother.	
2.19	The latch of the door is broken.	
2.20	They kept three pigs in their backyard.	
2.21	My sister is in school.	
2.22	Radha lives in Mizoram.	
2.23	He might come tomorrow.	
2.24	My friend's sister was ill.	

## 3. CLASSIFIER

While collecting classifiers it is important to look for both noun and numeral classifiers. But at times classifiers can also be hosted by other units of a language like an adjective. Classifiers can be used to categorize any category and including the category of a particular shape and size. Aikhenvald (2000) is a basic reading for a general understanding of classifiers.

3.1	My family has a hen and a cock.
3.2	People have gathered here.
3.3	Dogs are barking.
3.4	This is a tall tree.
3.5	This is a bamboo rope.
3.6	We need an electric wire.
3.7	This plank is thick.
3.8	This is a log.
3.9	This plank is thick.
3.10	Give me a small banana.
3.11	I came by boat.
3.12	There is no water in the tank.
3.13	We built the house with stones.
3.14	Do not beat the student with a stick.
3.15	Tie them with a rope.
3.16	Go and buy some ripe fruits.
3.17	There are two books on the table.
3.18	The labourer needs fifty stones to build a house.

#### 4. REFLEXIVE AND RECIPROCALS

The sentences in this section are designed following two questionnaires (Evans, Levinson, Enfield, Gaby, & Majid, 2013) and (Dimitriadis & Evaraert, 2002) on the Anaphors. As we know that reflexives and reciprocals belong to a particular type of construction known as *Anaphors* and subjected

to Binding Principle A of the Binding Theory (Chomsky, 1981). There are several strategies available for such constructions typologically. Anaphors can be lexical as in one word *himself/herself* or *sich* in German or compositional like *each other* and *One another* in English. Anaphors can show up either in the nominal domain as in English or in the verbal domain such as *-sja-* suffix in Russian, *-no-* in Meiteilon and *-n-* in Turkish. The verbal reciprocal however can be further complex such as *-min-* and *-su-* which is a composition of a comitative and a reflexive suffix in Nyishi (Saha, 2016) (A Tibeto-Burman language spoken in India). The notion of reflexivity and reciprocity interacts in two important ways in natural languages. Firstly, they reduce the argument structure (essentially they co-refer to the antecedent which is primarily the subject) and demonstrate different semantic effects according to the predicates on which they apply. Secondly, they show long-distance binding.

Sentence 4.1 to 4.8 would help us to collect the data on the reflexives and 4.9-4.11 for reciprocal constructions. Sentences from 4.1 - 4.4 & 4.7 are important to distinguish between the number and person effects on the reflexive marker. Sentence 4.5 is for the scope of a negative quantifier with reflexive and 4.6. is for an interrogative situation.

4.1	I like myself / She likes herself.
4.2	We saw ourselves in the mirror.
4.3	You cooked rice yourselves.
4.4	Radha bought a sari for himself.
4.5	Nobody praised oneself.
4.6	Who praises himself?
4.7	They told me about themselves.
4.8	The door opened by itself.
4.9	Radha and Raja looked at each other.
4.10	We (dual) met each other.
4.11	They follow each other.
4.12	Radha told sita that [Rakhi likes herself].
4.13	Sita and Raja think that they are fighting with each other.

#### 5. INTERROGATIVES

Interrogatives can be of different types. It contrasts with declarative, imperative, etc. in the system of clause type or sentence type. An interrogative sentence can be formed by using an interrogative word or by changing the word order of a sentence. Interrogatives have been classified into three kinds of question which are distinguished according to the way the set of answers is defined: **polar**, **alternative** 

and **variable questions**; another dimension distinguishes information from direction questions. Mismatches between interrogatives and questions are found in the areas of coordination, parenthetical, echo question and questions signalled only prosodically. Mismatches between interrogative phrases and questioned elements also need to be investigated.

Tag questions are very common in Indian languages. Most of the time they do not involve an interrogative marker. Prosody also plays an important role in it. For a detailed discussion on interrogatives, researchers can look into Chisholm et al. (1984), Kuno, S. & Robinson, J. J. (1972), Roque LilaSan. (2017), Stivers et al. (2010) etc.

5.1	What is your name?	
5.2	Where is your house?	
5.3	Which is your house?	
5.4	Who is he?	
5.5	Whose house is that?	
5.6	Whom do you like?	
5.7	When will you go?	
5.8	Why did she leave school?	
5.9	How did Tito fall?	
5.10	How much money did Radha get?	
5.11	How many cows do you want?	
5.12	Will you be here tomorrow?	
5.13	Shall I call you tomorrow?	
5.14	Is it okay for you?	
5.15	Can you come now?	
5.16	Have you not done your work?	
5.17	Do you not know me?	
	Look for Tag question	ns if any.
5.18	The flower is beautiful. Isn't it?	
5.19	He is not telling the truth. Is he?	
5.20	You are coming with me, right?	

#### 6. TENSE ASPECT MOOD

(Dahl, 1985) had discussed quite extensively on the elicitation and categorization of Tense, aspect and Mood systems in natural languages albeit it often becomes difficult to translate the sentences into a source language. There are a couple of other questionnaires which have been consulted in this work (Abbi, 2001) for specific aspects related to South Asian Languages and (Bertinetto, 2015) for the progressive aspect. There are two ways by which data on TAM categories can be collected. One is to elicit a single verb (preferably motion verbs like GO, WALK) in all possible combinations following the Indo Aryan tense system (Present, Past and Future along with Habitual, Perfect, Continuous aspects). Specific modalities such as epistemic ones can be felicitated through 6.1.4 -6.1.5 & 6.1.30 whereas demonic modality marker may show up in 6.1.6 & 6.1.10.

6.1	Intransitive	
6.1.1	I am walking to field now.	
6.1.2	I was walking	
6.1.3	I felt down when a car hit me	
6.1.3	I walk to the field every day	
6.1.4	I will walk to Kolkata on Sunday	
6.1.5	I will not walk to school	
6.1.6	I could have walked if I did not have money.	
6.1.7	We are walking to market now.	
6.1.8	We walk to school daily.	
6.1.9	We are walking to a fair now.	
6.1.10	We could walk anywhere.	
6.1.11	You walk to school daily	
6.1.12	You are walking to the market	
6.1.13	We are walking to a fair	
6.1.14	You walked to town yesterday.	
6.1.15	You will walk to Kolkata tomorrow	
6.1.16	He is walking to field now.	
6.1.17	He walked to town yesterday	
6.1.18	He walked to school daily	
6.1.19	He will walk to Kolkata tomorrow	
6.1.20	She is walking to Kolkata tomorrow	
6.1.21	She is walking to school now.	
6.1.22	She walks to market daily	
6.1.23	They are walking to school.	
6.1.24	They will walk to Delhi	
6.1.25	They walk to market daily	
6.1.26	They would have walked	

6.1.27	If I would have come.	
6.1.28	They will walk to Delhi	
6.1.29	They walk to market daily	
6.1.30	They would have walked	

Secondly, in order to understand the argument structure of verbs in a language, short video clips can be shown to the speakers (Erbaugh, 2001). For our purposes, we have created a small video to elicit the following aspects of TAM;

- i) To understand the difference between the action verbs such as *walk*, *run* vs. state verbs such as *sit*
- ii) Combination of verbs such as ECV and Verb serialization
- iii) Event sequentiality and manner
- iv) Verb Reduplication interacting with the aspect
- v) Auxiliaries
- vi) Realis vs. Irrealis mood.

Eliciting the Tense, Aspect and Mood in natural languages becomes challenging due to the typological differences across them. Many of the Tibeto-Burman languages e.g. Meiteilon tend to align the event structure with respect to *realis* (witnessed by the speaker) vs. *irrealis* (not witnessed by the speaker, the proposition is heard from someone or it has not happened yet) or Hypothetical vs. Non-hypothetical as considered by (Chelliah, 1997). It is not surprising then that same marker may show up in case of PAST and FUTURE and then we tend to classify the language as +/- Present. The languages of the Indo Aryan and Austro Asiatic family can show a PAST vs. NON PAST distinction for example in English 'the bus leaves tomorrow' refers to Future. In fact, it is also possible to come across languages which do not mark tense and instead aspects play an important role in building the aktionsart. From the data of several Indian languages, we have observed that the present perfect can overlap with simple past. The habitual aspect may not directly show up on the verb. Aspectual readings may often be generated by means of adding the light verbs across the language families. Since most of the languages in India are OV type, the ordering of the TAM categories is consistently turn out to be Vroot-ASP-TENSE-MOOD as proposed by (Baker, 1985), (Cinque G. , 1999) and (Cinque G. , 2002) among several others.

6.1	Intransitive	
6.1.1	I am walking to field now.	
6.1.2	I was walking	
6.1.3	when a car hit me	
6.1.3	I walk to the field every day	
6.1.4	I will walk to Kolkata on Sunday	
6.1.5	I will not walk to school	
6.1.6	I could have walked if I did not have money.	
6.1.7	We are walking to market now.	
6.1.8	We walk to school daily.	
6.1.9	We are walking to a fair now.	
6.1.10	We could walk anywhere.	
6.1.11	You walk to school daily	

6.1.12	You are walking to market	
6.1.13	We are walking to a fair	
6.1.14	You walked to town yesterday.	
6.1.15	You will walk to Kolkata tomorrow	
6.1.16	He is walking to field now.	
6.1.17	He walked to town yesterday	
6.1.18	He walked to school daily	
6.1.19	He will walk to Kolkata tomorrow	
6.1.20	She is walking to Kolkata tomorrow	
6.1.21	She is walking to school now.	
6.1.22	She walks to market daily	
6.1.23	They are walking to school.	
6.1.24	They will walk to Delhi	
6.1.25	They walk to market daily	
6.1.26	They would have walked	
6.1.27	If I would have come.	
6.1.28	They will walk to Delhi	
6.1.29	They walk to market daily	
6.1.30	They would have walked	

6.2	Transitive	
6.2.1	I eat rice daily (Sing/Plu)	
6.2.2	I ate rice in the morning	
6.2.3	I will eat rice at night.	
6.2.4	I am eating rice and vegetables.	
6.2.5	You eat rice daily. (Sing/Plu)	
6.2.6	You ate rice in the morning.	

6.2.7	You will eat rice at night	
6.2.8	You are eating rice now.	
6.2.9	He is going to field now. (he/she)	
6.2.10	He went to town yesterday	
6.2.11	He goes to school daily	
6.2.12	He will go to Kolkata tomorrow.	
6.2.13	He went to town yesterday	

_		
6.3	Ditransitive	
6.3.1	I am giving a book to him.	
0.5.1	Tuni giving a book to min.	
600	Y 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
6.3.2	I will give him the book tomorrow.	
6.3.3	I am giving him the book.	
	8 8	
6.3.4	I give him book daily.	
0.5.4	I give iiiii book dairy.	
6.3.5	You are giving book to him.	
6.3.6	You will give book to him tomorrow.	
0.5.0	Tou win give book to min tomorrow.	
607	X7 ' 1' 1 1 1'1	
6.3.7	You give him book daily.	
6.3.8	You are giving book to him	
6.3.9	He is giving book to him	
0.5.9	The is giving book to min	
6.3.10	He will give book to him	
6.3.11	He was giving book to him	
3.2.11		
6 2 12	The circus has also to him	
6.3.12	He gives book to him	
6.3.13	I am giving a child to him.	

6.3.14	I will give him the child tomorrow.	
6.3.15	I am giving a child to him.	
6.3.16	I will give him the child tomorrow.	
6.3.17		
	You give him the child daily.	
6.3.18		
	You are giving the child to him.	
6.3.19		
	He is giving a child to him.	
6.3.20		
	He was giving a child to him.	
6.3.21		
	He gives a child to him.	

6.4	Extra (TAM)	
6.4.1	Raju Toto left home.	
6.4.2	Ramesh Toto ran	
6.4.3	Harish Toto left home.	
6.4.4	Radha just left his home (immediate	
0.7.7	past).	
6.4.5	Raja left his home yesterday (remote	
0.1.5	past).	
6.4.6	He opened the box two days back.	
6.4.7	He was in the house.	
610	Lonly act rice	
6.4.8	I only eat rice. The sun rises in the east.	
6.4.10	He was in the house.	
6.4.11		
6.4.11	I only eat rice. The sun rises in the east.	
6.4.13		
6.4.14		
6.4.15		
6.4.16	Tomorrow he will eat rice at night.	
6.4.17		
6.4.18	He will be in the house.	
6.4.19		
6.4.20		
6.4.21	Yesterday they had caught the thief.	
6.4.22	Last year it had rained in October.	
6.4.23	She was a teacher.	
6.4.24	He has taken/eaten his meal.	
6.4.25	The boy has slept.	
6.4.26		
6.4.27	She is a teacher.	
J. 1.27	Sile is a toucher.	

( 1 20	D 41' 4' 1 111	
6.4.28	By this time tomorrow, she would have	
	reached Kolkata.	
6.4.29	He would have fished his work by	
0.1.27	tomorrow.	
6.4.30		
6.4.31		
6.4.32		
	I am eating food.	
6.4.34		
6.4.35	She is making tea.	
6.4.36	They are cutting bamboo now.	
6.4.37	Tomorrow morning he will be going to	
	forest.	
6.4.38	Tomorrow at 10 o'clock he will be	
6.4.39	Check for number, gender, honorific,	
6.4.40	intimate forms for the examples below:	
6.4.41	Go! (order)	
6.4.42		
	Get lost!	
6.4.43	Get lost!	
6.4.44	Open the door! (order)	
	• '	
6.4.45	Please open the door.	
6.4.46	Go! (order) (addressing an elder person–	
	look for honorific form)	
6.4.47	Dlagg og (addragging an alder margen	
0.4.47	Please go. (addressing an elder person –	
	look for honorific form)	
6.4.48	Get lost! (addressing an elder person –	
	look for honorific form)	
	·	
6.4.49	Go! (order) (addressing a younger person)	
0.4.47	Go: (order) (addressing a younger person)	
6.4.50	Please go. (addressing a younger person)	
6.4.51	Get lost! (addressing a younger person)	
6 4 50		
6.4.52	Go! (order) (addressing a person of same	
	age)	
6.4.53	Please go. (addressing a person of same	
1	age)	
6.4.54	Get lost! (addressing a person of same	
0. 1.57	age)	
	450)	
C 4 7 7	He is in the few t	
6.4.55	He is in the forest.	
6.4.56	He is our community headman.	
6.4.57	Let us go.	
6.4.58	Let us go and have tea.	
6.4.59	Let him go.	
1		1

6.4.60	Let them play.	
	1 0	
6.4.61	Let me go.	
6.4.62	Let me do this work.	
6.4.63	Perhaps he may come early tomorrow.	
6.4.64	You may take bus number 65 to go to the town.	
6.4.65	It might rain today.	
6.4.66	I have to eat now (For example, a diabetic person).	
6.4.67	He must be at home now.	
6.4.68	If it rains, I will cook chicken.	
6.4.69	If he came yesterday, we could have celebrated.	
6.4.70	I can sing (ability).	
6.4.71	She can go to Delhi alone.	
6.4.72	I want that he goes to the field every day.	
6.4.73	I want him gone out of the house by Monday.	
6.4.74	The law requires that liquor must not be consumed near the temple/ church/ mosque/ gurudwara.	
6.4.75	May you go to hell! (cursing)	
6.4.76	May God bless you! (blessing)	
6.4.77	I want you to be a good human being (wish).	

# 7. COMPLEX PREDICATES (ECV, Converb, Serial Verb)

A complex predicate is a multi-word predicate. There are different types of complex predicate construction in Indian languages. In Explicative Compound Verb (ECV) there are two verbs where one verb (main verb) carries the meaning of the word and the other verb (vector verb) hosts the affixes for the agreement and TAM features; e.g.  $k^ha$  lija (Hindi) meaning  $k^he$  nilo (Bangla) meaning ate. The second verb loses its meaning. Converb structures are formed with a noun and a verb; to call ( $p^hon$  karna in Hindi) in most of the Indian languages. In the serial verb construction, there is more than one verb and all the verbs carry their meanings. It shows the action done one after another; example,  $k^ha$  kar, naha kar, sone gaja ((he) ate, bathed and went to sleep). In many languages, there are restrictions for how many verbs can come one after another in a serial verb construction. The research needs to find out that and also what joins these verbs. Please refer to the following works for more information on these topics, Aikhenvald & Dixon (2006), Aikhenvald & Muysken (2011), Hook (1974) etc.

	Source Language	Response
7.1	She has gone outside the house.	
7.2	He broke the stone up.	
7.3	He died.	
7.4	She broke off the engagement.	
7.5	She ran up to the terrace.	
7.6	He fell down.	
7.7	He cleaned up the room.	
7.8	She rang me.	
7.9	He blessed us.	
7.10	Go and see.	
7.11	Radha kicked me and ran away.	
7.12	Sleep after eating.	
7.13	Having eaten his food, he went to sleep.	
7.14	I came here to see you.	
7.15	Mahato went to swim.	
7.16	He came sat ate and went away.	
7.17	Radha sang, danced and entertained the guests.	

## 8. NEGATIVES AND PROHIBITIVES

Negation in languages can be marked by different strategies. The negative marker can be used for some alternative expression like subjunctive or infinitive forms. Forms which are used to mark negative imperatives are called prohibitives. Prohibitives can be marked by using verbal affixes as well. In Hindi, *nəhi* and *məṭ* are negative and prohibitive markers. Many languages can have many more markers for both the types. Like negation is expressed by three particles in Santali. One marker for *interrogative* and *declarative* sentences. Another one as *emphatic negative* in declarative sentences, and also one as *prohibitive negative* in the imperative (Anderson 2008).

8.1	He is not a teacher.	
8.2	There is no water in the river.	
8.3	He cannot sing.	
8.4	You may not go now.	
8.5	You must not move now.	
8.6	We will not upset you.	
8.7	I didn't eat yesterday.	
8.8	They have not finished their job.	
8.9	I have not eaten.	

0.10	T1 1	
8.10	I had not yet eaten.	
8.11	I shall not have eaten.	
8.12	He left without informing anyone.	
8.13	They are not here.	
8.14	I am not hungry.	
8.15	I do not know.	
8.16	Do not enter.	
8.17	Let us not rest now.	
8.18	I have no money.	
8.19	I did not play today.	
8.20	I shall not eat food.	
8.21	I think he will not come.	
9.22	I doubt think he will some	
8.22 8.23	I don't think he will come. I never take alcohol.	<u> </u>
8.23	Thever take acconor.	
8.24	She did not eat anything yesterday.	
8.25	I don't see her anymore.	
8.26	Nothing can be done about his illness.	
8.27	Nobody saw me.	
8.28	Radha is nowhere in the village.	
8.29	Not even my sister believed me.	
8.30	None of the children came.	
8.31	Neither I nor you can solve this problem.	
8.32	Everyone did not pass the examination.	
0.32	Everyone and not pass the examination.	
8.33	Not everyone passed.	
8.34	The bird is no longer on the tree.	
8.35	Have you seen him? "No" (Elicit	
	'No' as an answer)	
8.36	I did not say it is not bad.	
8.37	If you don't study you will fail.	
8.38	I could not go there.	
8.39	I will not come to school tomorrow.	
8.40	You should not tell like this.	
0.70	Tou should not tell like tills.	
8.41	Smoking is prohibited here.	
8.42	Do not enter without asking us.	

36 Lahiri and Saha (2018)

## 9. CAUSATIVES AND PASSIVES

Causative can be found in many of the Indian languages however some languages also have double causatives like Hindi, e.g.  $k^h$ ana  $k^h$ ana (to eat food),  $k^h$ ana  $k^h$ ilana (to make someone eat),  $k^h$ ana  $k^h$ ilana (to make someone eat through someone). Passives can also perform as causatives. But it may be difficult to get these sentences structures. Translation method is good as a prerequisite but it can be followed by a related narration collection.

9.1	The nurse fed the baby.
9.2	Mother made the nurse feed the baby.
9.3	I made the girl clean the room.
9.4	I made the girl clean the room with a
	broom.
9.5	I made the girl ask the maid to clean
	the room.
9.6	I make him break the glass.
9.7	Radha made him die.
9.8	Tito made Radha sleep.
9.9	Tito's mother made Tito make Radha
	sleep.
9.10	The dog made the baby cry.
9.11	The house was burnt by the dacoits.
9.12	Let tea be drunk.
9.13	Because of bad weather, we could not
	go to the village.
9.14	The chair was broken by the children.
9.15	I am unable to walk.

## 10. REDUPLICATION, ECHO FORMS AND BINOMIALS

Within the Indian area, studies on reduplication have emphasized its structural importance with respect to the linguistic area (from Emeneau 1969 to Abbi 1992). It follows a similar pattern for most of the Indian languages. The following sentences are based on those patterns.

	Source	Target
10.1	My mother eats her food slowly	
	slowly.	
10.2	The ghost visited her again and	
	again.	
10.3	I am tired of walking (and walking)	
	everyday.	
10.4	Who (all) will go to the jungle?	
10.5	We collected firewood from home	
	by home.	
10.6	They went to their respective	
	villages.	
10.7	She kept laughing and went mad.	
10.8	He hopped hopped and went to his	
	home.	
10.9	Baby walked with hasty steps ( <i>look</i>	
	for reduplicated form for hasty).	
10.10	Give us rice and the like.	
10.11	She will buy milk and the like.	
10.12	The farmer carries spade and the	
	like and goes to the field.	
10.13	Have some tea and the like.	

10.14	The water is dripping continually	
	from the roof. ( <i>look for</i>	
	onomatopoeic form for fast).	
10.15	He gulped the water fast (look for	
	onomatopoeic form for fast).	
10.16	The fire burnt strong (look for	
	onomatopoeic form for strong).	
10.17	My stomach is aching due to hunger	
	(look for onomatopoeic form for	
	ache of hunger).	
10.18	Books are scattered here and there.	
10.19	People from near and far gathered	
	for the meeting.	
10.20	My neighbours and all are very	
	good.	

## 11. COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

A cross-linguistic variation in modes of comparison can be found. In some languages, there are markers in some other languages it can be established through the sentence structure. The investigator should identify what the language is using for comparison.

	T	
11	Radha is as good as Ruby.	
11.1	Mahato is taller than Radha.	
11.2	Rajiv Toto is taller than everybody.	
11.3	Madhu is more beautiful than her sister.	
11.4	Ruby is the fastest runner.	
11.5	Kolkata has the best sweet in the	
	country.	
11.6	She is the most beautiful of all girls.	
11.7	Ganga is the longest river in India.	
11.8	You are the best person in the group.	
11.9	This is the oldest tree in the village	
11.10	Radha is as good as Ruby.	
11.11	Ruby is taller than Radha.	

## 12. SENTENCES WITH ADVERBS

(In the section we will look at adverbs which modify the verb, e.g. *taratari* 'fast' (Bengali))

12	She sings melodiously.	
12.1	I ran quickly.	
12.2	Radha ate rice slowly.	
12.3	He ate rice just now.	
12.4	He plays football daily.	
12.5	Perhaps the minister will not come	
	today.	
12.6	Frankly speaking, I don't like tea.	
12.7	He coughed and coughed and died.	
12.8	The baby is sleeping peacefully.	
12.9	He walks slowly.	

38 Lahiri and Saha (2018)

## 13. QUANTIFIERS AND INTENSIFIERS

It should be noted that the community may not use the so-called standard or global measurement scales. There may be very culture-specific terms. Even there may be different measurement scales for indigenous objects.

13	Every house has a dog.	
13.1	There are ten books on the table.	
13.2	All the girls came to the class.	
133	Some of the boys did not come to the	
	class	
13.4.	Give ten rupees to each one of them.	
13.5	Someone knows English here.	
13.6	My grandmother gave me a lot of	
	biscuits.	
13.7	Give me a few chocolates.	
13.8	Madhu loves her baby a lot.	
13.9	There are many trees in my house.	
13.1	Give me a dozen of banana (the concept	
0	of a dozen may not be there).	

## 14. Miscellaneous

There may be some elements which are in the language but it has not been covered under the above topics. Moreover, there can be some language specific features. Few sentences have been given which can be good for a preliminary understanding of these language-specific aspects.

14	I cut his head suddenly (is there any	
	specific sound for cutting different	
	things)	
14.1	He will eat rice	
14.2	It is Radha who will eat (change the word	
	order to check intonation)	
14.3	Will you go home?	
14.4	It is very very red (any word to describe	
	the intensity of a colour).	
14.5	Suddenly he felt down (expressive or	
	onomatopoeic word)	

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## Jadavpur Journal of Languages and Linguistics



## Questionnaire on Anthropo-linguistic Aspects

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## 1. Objective

The objective of this questionnaire is to elicit the data on Anthropo-linguistics which is closely associated with social-cultural anthropology.

As a field of interdisciplinary studies the, anthropolinguistics is concerned with how a language influences the culture. This can include how the language makes impacts on social interactions, beliefs, cultural identity, and other important aspects of the culture. The main goal of linguisticanthropology or anthropolinguistics is to better understand human culture. A linguistic anthropologist could ask many questions (https://explorable.com/linguistic-anthropology), including:

- 1. Why does one language or language variety show preference over another?
- 2. Why do different geographic regions have different language accents?
- 3. What types of values and ideologies are communicated through language?
- 4. Does language vary according to age, gender, beliefs, and other such socio-linguistic parameters?

However, the main objectives of this part are:

- 1. To show some of the synchronic and diachronic diversity in languages with respect to the issues related to ethnicity, gender, religion, gender identity, ability, and national.
- 2. To enrich the basic vocabulary of a language by adding words from the domain of anthropology.
- 3. To understand how the language shape their cultural representations in both natural and social contexts.
- 4. To understand how the language forms an integral component in the formation and expression of social identity and group membership and the organisation of cultural beliefs and ideologies.

#### A. Family

The term 'family' refers to a group- entity where children are born, taken care of and socialized. The membership, size and the structure of the group differ in different societies. In a way, it also refers to culturally and historically specific social practices. Every society uses many norms and regulation to form their family. These norms and regulations have so many important terms or words which are useful to prepare a lexicon of the community. The following points should be taken into account in regard to study the family of a community e.g. types and size of the family

## Types and Size of the family:

Functions of the family: Common residence, common food supply, regulation of gender, the upbringing of children, handing over the property, affiliations of kins.

## Head of the family:

Status of the family Members: Particularly during the festivals, hunting, agriculture and others.

## B. Life Cycle:

In this part, data can be collected following the points mentioned below:

- 1. The concept of birth,
- 2. Name giving ceremony,
- 3. Education,
- 4. Marriage,
- 5. Death and disposal,
- 6. The concept of the soul and the other world.

In case of each of the members of a family, the information can be collected. In some cases first, cite one case and then state the variations in other cases. From these cases, an analysis should be done. The following points should be taken into account in regard to:

**Birth and Name giving ceremony:** time and place of ceremony, selection of the day, invitees, day and time of ceremony, place, time, direction of seats, arrangement of functions, procedure of the ceremony, choice of name, emolument of the performer, feasts, materials used for this ceremony, etc. The plan may contain the following points.

- 1. About the Birth Concept among the community
- 2. Steps of Birth Rituals (From Pregnancy to 1-year post birth of the child)

3. Name of the Birth Rituals and Material Used

Birth rituals	Activity (their own language)	Materials used	

**Marriage:** The term 'marriage' refers to various customs and rules concerning the special relationship between the two members of opposite gender which also create a set of obligations and roles for them as well as for their kin-groups. Marriage in every society is subjected to certain rules, which can be prohibitive, prescriptive or preferential. So, under this domain, the research investigator should document all the marriage rituals performed or celebrated by the community and the family. The following information may be elicited by taking pictures and videos (if permissible).

Premarital gender life, forms of marriage, types of marriage, suitable mates, the idea behind marriage, consideration of marriage, selection of the bride and groom, preliminaries of marriage, marriage ritual, the residence of marriage, materials used in marriage etc. We can follow the following types of questions the study of a marriage.

- 1. What type of marriage the community practices generally?
- 2. Is there any other type of marriage among them? If yes, give details.
- 3. How do they acquire their mate? How can the other possibilities help them to acquire their mate?

- 4. Marriage performance place name......
- 5. Data on Stepwise Marriage performance (Case study)
- 6. Used Material for Marriage Ceremony

Sl. No.	Material used	Name of their own language	Material used	Name of their own language
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

**Death:** causes of death, treatment, funeral- actual ceremony, social pollution, elements used in the funeral ceremony etc. The plan may contain the following points.

1. The concept of Death (Community)

## 2. Death Related Rituals

Death Rituals	Activity (their own Material use languages)	d

## C. Kinship Terms

According to (Morgan, 1990) based on his observations in the North American Indian Societies, A kinship term is simply a term of a language used for designating or referring to a kin. A kinship is defined as the fact of relatedness through the bonds of marriage and birth. Gender kinship is the social recognition of the biological ties of marriage and birth and all those who are related to each other through these bonds are recognized as 'kins' as distinguished from 'non-kins' related to each other in hundreds of other ways than these two. There are two types of kins- i) affinal kins, and ii) consanguineal kin. Those related to each other through the bond of marriage are called as 'affinal kins' and those who are related to each other through the bond of birth are called as 'consanguineal kin'. There are three types of consanguineal kins, i.e.

- 1. The direct decedents of a pair of common ancestors or the descendants of the same parents in a vertical line called 'lineal kins'.
- 2. The brothers and sisters, i.e. the children born of the same parents called as 'siblings'.

3. Those who are the descendants of the siblings of one's parents called as 'collaterals'. Thus the consanguine kings may be lineal, siblings or collaterals.

However, According to M. Lamp (1965) to understand the nature of kinship systems it is necessary to understand what kind of linguistic elements these are, and what kind of linguistic relationships they possess. The kinship terminology of any language is a natural meeting point for the disciplines of anthropology and linguistics. The table plan contains the following points for the study of kinship terms of a community.

List of The kinship Term					
Glossary	Reference Term		Address Term		
	language under the study	IPA	language under the study	IPA	
Family					
Father					
Father's brother					
Father's younger brother					
Father's elder brother					
Father's sister					
Father's elder sister					
Father's younger sister					
Father's mother					
Father's father					
Father's brother's wife					
Father's brother's son					
Father's brother's daughter					
Father's sister's son					
Father's sister's daughter					
	<del>.</del>		<del>-</del>		
Great grandfather					
Great-grandmother					
Grandson					
Granddaughter					
Great-granddaughter					
Great-grandson					
Husband					
Husband's elder brother					
Husband's younger brother					
Husband's elder sister					
Husband's younger sister					
Husband (elder and					
younger) sister's husband					
Husband (elder or younger)					
brother's wife					
Husband's father					
Husband's mother					
M - 41	T	T	T	1	
Mother					
Mother's brother (elder and					
younger)					
Mother's sister (elder and					
younger)					
Mother's sister's husband					
Mother's brother's wife					

Mother's sister's son		
Mother's sister's daughter		
Mother's brother's son		
Mother's brother's		
daughter		
Mother's father		
Mother's mother		
Wife's brother/brother in		
law		
Wife's brother's wife		
Wife's sister (elder and		
younger)		
Wife's sister husband		
Wife's father/ Father in law		
Wife's mother or mother		
in law		
Stepmother		
Stepfather		
Stepbrother		
Stepsister		
Stepdaughter		
Stepson		
Son		
Son's wife or Daughter in		
law		
Daughter		
Daughter's husband/son in		
law		
Daughter in law		
Son's father in law		
Son's father-in-law's wife		
Daughter's father in law		
Daughter's mother in law		
Sister's father in Law		
Sister's mother in law		
Brother's father in law		
Brother's mother in law		
Husband's second wife		

## Genealogy/ Genealogical methods

This method or technique for the collection of field data has been effectively employed and was first introduced by Rivers (1926) in his Torres Straits expedition. In this method, first of all, a suitable informant is selected. Then a short genealogy of the informant is taken. In applying this method, simplest kinship terms, father, mother son, daughter, sister, brother etc. are generally used. The informant is asked the names of those who stand in relation with him/ her. S/he is asked to produce the biological kins and not those who are his/her cousins. S/he is also asked as to how s/ he and her/his kin address each other and thus the kinship terminology is built up.

After the collection of genealogy from the informant, he is asked to narrate a lifecycle ritual in which he himself is or was directly or partially involved. In the following way, we can give a genealogical diagram to understand the kinships.

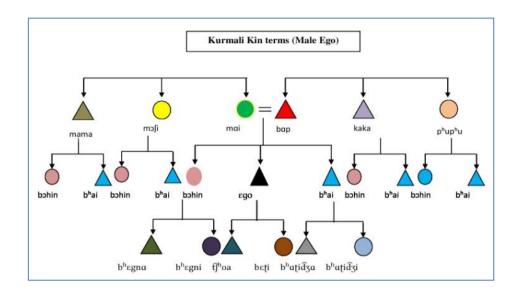
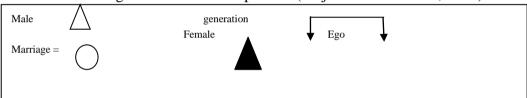


Fig 1: Kurmali Kinship terms (Majumder and Lahiri, 2018)



## B. Clan

Apart from the kinships, the clans also form an important part of the Anthropo linguistic study. Rivers (1924) defined a clan as a unilateral exogamous division of a tribe, the members of which are held to be related to one another by some common tie; it may be belied in descent from a common ancestor, the common possession of a totem or habitation of a common territory. A clan can be divided into two types, *matrilineal* and *patrilineal*. A matrilineal clan is a group of actual or supposed blood relations, tracing their descent through the female. On the other hand, patrilineal is a group of actual or supposed blood relations tracing their descent through the male organisation. Besides these, there are other types of clan-like, ancestral clan, totemic and territorial clan. The basic characteristic features of clans are,

- i. The unilateral mode of grouping, e.g., the Khasis furnishes an example of the matrilineal clan whereas Oraos, Santhals represent patrilineal clan.
- ii. It is exogamy, i.e., the intensity of sentiment is that marriage should be outside the clan, however, varies considerably. In Australia, it was so pronounced that a man or a woman guilty of violating the rule would have been promptly put to death. Among the Khasis in India, there is no greater sign of marrying within the same clan.
- iii. These are Totemic. i.e., Clan members are like with a particular species of plant or animal or inanimate object or natural phenomena- the totem. The exact relationship between the totem and the totemism varies considerably. It may be a relationship of direct descent as the members according to their beliefs. For example, a clan among the Santal is named a  $h\tilde{a}sda$ . The members of this clan respect duck (local name:  $h\tilde{a}ns$ ) and do not eat the flesh of duck because they believe themselves to be originated from duck (Roy Basu, 2003).

So, on the basis of these characteristic features of the clan, there are so many linguistic features. For example, a clan among the kurmi of Purulia, West Bengal, India is named a *kudriar*. The members of this family do not eat one type of vegetable name *kudri*. Here, linguistically the clan names show a combination of totem name + the suffix /-ar/ which is used to denote genericity. In Bangla, the generic classifier is /-ra/ as in *pakhi-ra* 'birds' and Kurmali seems to have borrowed it as /-ar/ to show the generic nature of the clans. Lexical borrowing from Bangla is quite common in case of clan names

such as from  $\jmath fur$  (demon),  $\jmath furar$  and from  $b \varpi ra$  (fence), bæraretc (Majumder, 2017). On the basis of the importance of clan study, we can follow this following types of the plan contains for the study of a clan.

- 1. How many clans exist in a community and its meaning?
- 2. What are their ideas about the clans?
- 3. Clan and their beliefs

Name of the clans	Meaning	Totem

## 4. Is there a borrowing of Clan names from other communities?

## C. Material culture

Material culture denotes the objects which the people make by means of their technology and use them for food, shelter, clothing, and appliances etc. for their survival or for supporting and improving their life. So, to study the culture and languages, it is very important to study the various domains of the material culture of human beings. Basically, the material culture is related to games, magicoreligious beliefs, recreations, occupations etc.

## a. Daily Life

Daily life account of different persons of different ages and genders, analysis of each selection should be taken into consideration.

## b. Recreational life

Under this, the investigator should document all kinds of music, dances, and folklores performed daily as well as seasonally and celebrated by the community, family and an individual. The following points may be taken into account while taking pictures, recording audio and videos in the fields.

**Music:** place of song in the life of people, individual or communal, dancing, courting, recreation, war etc. Besides these, we may follow the following plan for musical instruments related Anthropolinguistic data collection.

Name (With picture)	Material Used	Locally name

**Dance:** Age, gender, place, individual or group dance occasion, purpose, organized or spontaneous. Besides these, we may follow the following plan for musical instruments related to Anthropolinguistic data collection.

Dance Name	Who performed?	Season	Place	Purposes

**Folklores:** How this art is cultivated? Whether tales are told to the children in the form of education or as amusement, whether the children are taught to reproduce the tales with traditional intonation, etc.

**Games and plays:** Games and sports are found in early human history and appear to be cultural universals (chick, 2001). To study the anthropolinguistic view of a language, the researchers should document specific games of a community through the audio-video recording. The list below captures such components.

Names of games/ plays	Participants	Any Comment in their Own Language

## c. Economic and occupational aspect

It may be helpful to inquire about the occupation and the socio-economic condition of a community for gathering new words (nouns, verbs etc.) which in turn can help in doing the phonological, morphological analyses in a given language.

- a. Area of land possessed by the informant
  - I. Own land (area)
  - II. Share land (area)
- b. Quality and classification of land

- c. Preparation of the field for agriculture
  - a. Method of preparation

Whether indigenous or any other special method borrowed from others.

d. Manure used:

Kind of mature (self-made or scientific chemicals)

Quantity and how collected.

e. Irrigation:

natural or artificial

- f. The actual preparation of the field
  - i. method of cultivation (ploughing, weeding, harvesting, threshing, a method of storing, rotation of cropping etc.)
  - ii. Seed used in the field (quality and nature, how collected etc.)
- g. Some points may be taken into account while taking pictures, recording audio and videos in the field of agricultural related data collection. E.g., agricultural-related instruments and its various parts (like a plough, hoe etc.).
- h. If the community is a hunter and gatherer society then the information can be collected accordingly.

## d. Market Study

Study of the local market in the rural community is very important to assess the language use, materials and culture-specific customs of the people concerned

## **Procedures**

- 1. Plan of the market with sites is very essential for the first time.
- 2. Both permanent and mobile shops with local and indigenous and also imposed products are also to be noted with the names and position in the market.
- 3. The control and medium of exchange of the market need to be taken into consideration.
- 4. Games in the market particularly cockfighting is a special feature in the life of rural people, especially in tribal areas. Any others games or like things should also be noted.
- 5. Lastly, time factor plays an important part for the study of the market. So, the study of the market at different season should be done.

## **Planning**

The plan contains the following points for the study of a market in a rural area:

D.	Name of	Commodities	Commodities		Sheller		Purchasers or buyers	
Date	Recorder	Indigenous (own language)	Imported (own languages)	Men	Women	Men	Women	

The name of the commodities can help us to collect many word items about various goods. These commodities should again be divided into: food products (vegetables, grains, fruits, oil, animal products like fish, egg, meat, cooked food, sweets etc.), agricultural implements, basketry (grasses and ropes), pottery, metal products, domestic articles, dress and ornaments, narcotics (prepared, unprepared.), etc.

The market thus acts as a meeting place for the community members and also members from different communities. One can identify the causes of the language vitality, attitude, language contact and the status of a lingua franca in a particular area.

## e. Festivals and rituals

Festivals and rituals are the two important domains for the anthropolinguists to know about their culture and languages. A researcher should document all festivals according to seasons and rituals performed by the community, villager and family. The following techniques may be used along with the taking picture and recording video.

## a. Round the year Festivals and Rituals

Name of the month	Name of the month (their own languages)	Festivals/Rituals	Purposes

## b. Worship Places

Name of Worship Place	Local name	Brief Description	Purposes

## f. Ethno-medicine

Ethnomedicine is a comparative study of the ways in which traditional medical practices of indigenous people are utilized to identify and prevent diseases. So, documentation of the ethnic healing systems is important for the study of language and culture. So, a researcher should ask the questions in the following way.

- a. Name of the man who prescribes the Medicines:
- b. Data on Ethno-Medicine Use

Disease	Locally Name	Treatment	Material Used	Locally name

## g. House form and Settlement pattern

Every indigenous have a distinct culture, and lifestyle, which is manifested in their settlement patterns. If we want to identify and conserve indigenous house form and settlement pattern, to know about their culture than we can use the following methods.

- 1. Document the whole indigenous settlement.
- 2. Position and purposes of each hut.
- 3. Details about the granary, cow/pig/goat etc. shed and kitchen etc.
- 4. Document the materials used for hut (different categories).
- 5. Document the building process of a hut (including the labourers).
- 6. Internal and external structure of the hut, etc.

## h. Cooking and Utensils

Cooking is also an important part of human culture. To study the language and culture, the researchers should document community specific cooking process and the use of utensils related to cooking, food and drinks etc.

- 1. Cooking methods:
- 2. Types, purposes and name of the oven:
- 3. Materials used for firing:
- 4. Utensils

Name of utensils (With picture)	Material Used	Locally name	Purposes

## i. Food & Food vs. Rituals

Document the various types of foods and drinks of a community to understand their culture and language.

Name	Taking Time	Local Name	Material Used	Local Name	Remarks

We can also use the following table to understand the relationship between food, drinks and rituals.

Rituals	Food	Purposes	Drinks	Purposes	Remarks

## • Collect data on Food and Drink preparation (Case study)

## j. Taboo

Taboo refers to certain specific types of beliefs of prohibitions. Such beliefs are widespread among the population. In all these societies, the consequences of the breaching the norms are believed to be drastic and more clearly defined, such as illness, death, drought, economic failure and so on. There are various types of taboos, e.g. religious taboos, food taboos, gender taboos, protective taboos etc. Document all the ethnic-specific taboos practised in the community in the following way.

Activities	Beliefs	Type of Taboos

## k. Dresses and ornaments

Dress and ornaments are considered as a bare necessity to human beings, after food and shelter. The motive behind the use of dress and ornaments can be related to three factors as mentioned here. *i. protection against weather, ii. A sense of concealment, iii. An indication of social distinction.* However, these three factors are more important for the study of language and culture. So, a researcher should ask the questions in the following way.

Dresses/Ornaments	Used by male	Locally name	Material Used	Locally name	Remarks

## l. Personal Adornment

A desire for personal adornment can show up apart from the clothing. People try to display and decorate their body by different means. There are various types of personal adornment. Such as paints, tattoos, sacrifices, etc. So, a researcher needs to ask the questions in the following way.

Types of personal adornment	Material used	Purposes	Remarks

## m. Transport

The transport may be able to be broadly categorized into two groups, land transport and water transport. It saved the labour of man and at the same time facilitated the meetings between the peoples of distant areas. However, the various information about the transports can produce many data for linguistics study. In the following way, we may document the transport of a community.

- 1. The concept of transport among community members.
- 2. What are their major types of transport?
- 3. What are the types of transportation used for carryings goods and human beings?

4. Document the various parts of the indigenous vehicles or transport car (bullock cart, handcart, tanga etc.).

## n. Handicrafts

The famous book of "Indian Handicrafts" (Chattopadhyaya, 1996) is a famous landmark in the Indian cultural field. She shows that the Indian handicrafts thrived through ages stimulated by a vigorous folk tradition, a benign culture, and in an age when individualism was cherished and precision was valued. We can document about a community handicraft, like pottery, basketry, weaving etc. in the following way.

Categories	Handicraft types			
9	Pottery	Basketry	Weaving	
Who is involved in making				
Raw materials				
How are they made?				
(process)				
Purposes of uses				
Export/ Exchange (for				
what?)				
Remarks				

## D. Magico- religious beliefs and Practices

An attitude of arrogance or least of self-assurance is always the mind of a magician who firmly believed that he control the supernatural forces. So, we can document about a community magicoreligious beliefs and its practices, using the following plan for anthropo- linguistic study.

Believes	What do they do?	Purposes	Remarks

#### E. Governance

The association, of which law is the institutional activity, is the government. So, we can document about the social control and dispute resolution systems of a community, penalty or punishments of crimes practices among the community etc.

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## Journal Homepage: http://jjll.jdvu.ac.in/journal/index.php/JJLL



## Jadavpur Journal of Languages and Linguistics



# Questionnaire for Geolinguistic Surveys: Demographic profiling of the language community

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The purpose of this questionnaire is to create the demographic profiles for the indigenous and endangered languages of India. The document will help in mapping them with the help of cartography and Geo-linguistics. The major aim is to put these languages into maps for a locational reference and to analyze the data collected from the field along with preparing the necessary diagrams to analyze the cause and the consequences.

The methodology can be worked out by considering the following flowchart.

Stage 1

•Preparation the questionnaire and selection of the village, where the survey will be conducted. This selection can be done in the following two steps,1. By analyzing the density and amount of the language speakers and can be done by using the secondary information and 2. By conducting a pilot survey at the village which is selected by the first step.

Stage 2

- A thorough Fieldwork needs to be conducted in the village for various data collection. Location of the camp should be near to the village and also with nearby town, railway station, bus stand, a well known market place or market according to the situations.
- •A particular questionnaire is to be filled by the investigators in every household of the village. House locations of the village are collected by using GPS device. For the secondary data collection the Panchayet office, BDO office, and Govt. census department needs to be visited. These institutions can provide Mauja maps, available house information and census data.

Stage 3

• The review of the collected data and the preparation of the linguistic maps, diagrams using the cartographic and GIS techniques and publish the results.

#### 1. Household Census Data

A survey questionnaire has been developed to collect the household information of a selected village

and the language community. This part of the questionnaire focuses on some specific questions to obtain information about *household composition*, *language vitality*, *languages known* and *its use* as well as education levels of the total population of the village, household composition and the linguistic characteristics. For this survey, we use GPS devise which can help to mark the households for future data input. All variable are collected from the study village by using the form created and cited below.

## 1.1 Household Census Form

#### Household census Name of the village..... .....Block name..... Languages Used Home Outer Occupation Name of (Family Inner SL Political Marital Birth Primary Secondary Family Age member/ group group place/ Education Occupation Working place Community remarks members (Years) Sex Status Place language Language Relatives) Community place

The variables are now explained in turn. For each variable, a note for users which explains the necessary information for conducting the survey is listed as under. A list of applicable codes is also provided.

## 2. Variables

## 2.1 Village Name

## **Notes for users**

The full name of the selected village refers to the study area. For example village, Dalkathi of Jhargram district of West Bengal is selected for the Lodha language and community. Selection of the village:

The village is selected according to the presence of speakers and on the basis of linguistic features of the particular language.

## 2.2 Block

## Notes for users

Name of the block needs to be recorded. The full name of the subdivisions refers to the study area. For example, the Jhargram district is divided into 8 subdivisions.

## 2.3 Gram Panchayat (GP)

## **Notes for users**

The full name of the gram panchayet refers to the province codes e.g. Dalkati village is under Lodhasuli gram panchayat. Jhargram subdivision is divided into 13-gram panchayat. The first letter of the gram panchayet refers to the province codes.

## 2.4 Mouja name

## Notes for users

Different terms are used for the local authority boundaries in different parts of the country. Full name of the mouja refers to the province codes.

## 2.5 Household number

## Notes for users

To ensure accuracy all households have been surveyed and a maximum number of households need to be met. All local authorities with less than 200 households could be marked with numerical units which will spatially be linked with the GPS position number to ensure that the maximum number of households was met.

## 3. Information about the Informant

## 3.1 Name of the informant

## **Notes for users**

Name of the person from whom the data has to be collected.

**Applicable population:** All households

## 3.2 Age of the informant

## Notes for users

The informant is asked for the date of birth and, if not known, age in years. Date of birth was requested because it is easier for some people to remember (rather than having to calculate age) and to try to minimize the tendency for people to round off responses to the nearest decade.

The question required the age in a completed year.

**Applicable population:** Informant

## 3.3 Gender of the informant

#### Notes for users

Gender is a key demographic variable. Where it is not provided with a response input manually based on other information from the questionnaire.

## **Applicable population:** Informant

## **Code list**

- 1. Male (M)
- 2. Female (F)

## 3.4 Education

## Notes for users

See 'Highest education level' as this variable requires information on the last level of schooling. **Applicable population:** Informant.

<b>Education level</b>	Code list
01. No schooling	0
02. Grade 1	1
03. Grade 2	2
04. Grade 3	3
05. Grade 4	4
06. Grade 5	2 3 4 5
07. Grade 6	6
08. Grade 7	7
09. Grade 8	8 9
10. Grade 9	9
11. Grade 10	10
12. Grade 11	11
13. B. Ed	12
99. Grad.	13
97. P.G.	14
98. Diploma	15
=	

## 3.5 Occupation of the informant

## Notes for users

The user will only ask this question in respect of people who are employed. Ask for the name of the occupation.

**Applicable population:** informant

## 4. Information about every household member

#### 4.1 Serial no

**Notes for users:** a serial number of the family members.

## 4.2 Name of the family members

## Notes for users

The user needs to ask the names of each household.

**Applicable population**: All persons

## 4.3 Age

#### Notes for users

The user needs to ask to the household personal for his/her date of birth and, if not known, age in years. Date of birth could be requested because it is easier for some people to remember (rather than having to calculate age) and to try to minimize the tendency for people to round off responses to the nearest decade. If both age and date of birth are given, the date of birth will be accepted if the responses were inconsistent.

The question requires the age in a completed year.

**Applicable population** Every household member.

## 4.4 Gender

## **Notes for users**

Gender is a key demographic variable. Where it was not provided with a response input manually based on other information from the questionnaire.

Interviewers should be instructed that they could complete this question based on their observation and does not have to ask it if the person is present.

**Applicable population:** Every person of a single household.

## Code list

- 1. Male (M)
- 2. Female (F)

### 4.5 Marital status

## Notes for users

A question is included on each person's marital status. The following responses are allowed:

- Not married
- Married
- Widower/widow
- Divorced/separated

## **Applicable population**

All persons on the household.

## Code list

- Not married (NM)
- Married (M)
- Widower/widow (WF/ WM)
- Divorced/separated (D/S)

## 4.6 Place of birth

## **Notes for users**

The question involves two parts – firstly, whether the person was born in the village and then, if not, in which place was the person born.

## 4.7 Studying status

## **Notes for users**

Write down the 'Highest education level or class last attended.

**Applicable population:** All persons aged 5 years and older on household and personal questionnaires **Code list:** (**Ref. Same as point 9**)

## 4.8 Employment status

## Notes for users

Employment status refers to whether a person is employed, unemployed or not economically active. Information on child labour will be available from the Child Labour Survey.

## Applicable population

All persons aged 15 years and older on household and personal questionnaires

## Code list

- 01. Employed
- 02. Unemployed, looking for work
- 03. Type of work (if working),

## Like:

- Agriculture (A)
- agricultural labour (AL)
- industrial labour (IL)
- ......
- .......

## 4.9 First language

## Notes for users

The questionnaire asks about what language each person speak most often at home. There should be a question on whether the person speaks more than one language at home and, if so, what was the next most often spoken language.

**Applicable population:** every household member.

## Code list

The initial letter of the spoken language. Like,

- KODA (K)
- MAHALI (MH)
- LODHA (LD)
- ENGLISH (ENG)
- HINDI(H)
- .....
- .....

## 4.10 Second language

## **Notes for users**

See the First language.

This questionnaire asks about what language each person speak outside the home. There should be a question on whether the person speaks more than one language and, if so, what are the next most often spoken languages.

Applicable population: Every household member.

**Code list:** See First language code system.

## 4.11 Languages used

## **Notes for users**

See Citizenship

This variable contains 5 sub-variables. The user needs to ask what language family members speak in these following places.

They are as follows:

- 1. Home (Family member/ Relatives)
- 2. Outer group/Community
- 3. Inner group/community
- 4. Occupation place/working place
- **5.** Political place

**Applicable population:** Family members in common.

## 4.12 Remarks

## **Notes for users**

Other useful information which is not mentioned in the household census.

## Journal Homepage: http://jjll.jdvu.ac.in/journal/index.php/JJLL



## Jadavpur Journal of Languages and Linguistics



## Ethical Aspects of Data Elicitation

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Ethics in Field Linguistics is an important issue all over the globe. However, in India, the topic does not get the required attention. This section introduces the researchers to the aspects of ethics. It describes the ethical issues which need to be followed in the field and also after the field. This topic has been studied in details by various field linguists (Rice 2011, Nagy 2000). But the present section focuses on the Indian scenario which is difficult to find in any of the works which deal with the ethics of the linguistic field. At the end of the section, you will also find an ethical form designed by us for use in the field which I believe, with little modification can be used in all the linguistic fields of India. There are some basic ethics which are needed to be followed in all the research works. These are general and common ethical issuesas a researcher should not manipulate with the data, plagiarism is unethical and about the ownership of the research work etc. As these are very common yet debatableissues hence they are not described in this section. Rather here I focus on the ethical issues related to the linguistic field.

There are two types of ethical issues related to language documentation. One, which is followed in the field and the other which has to be followed after the field. First, I list the ethical dos and don'ts which are needed to be followed in the field.

- 1. **Inform the language expert about your research:** The language expert should be aware of the researcher's work. He/she has the right to know what will be done with the data he/she is contributing. But it is not a good topic to start your communication with, in the beginning. After the informal introduction and some friendly communication, the research should describe the language expert about the aim of the research. Most of the time the research will need to simplify the things so that the language expert can understand it easily. If one talks about language documentation then the endangered language speakers in most of the cases do not understand what it means. In such cases, the researcher needs to explain to the speaker that his/her language is getting lost and hence needs to be saved and one of the ways of doing it, is by publishing dictionaries and grammars in the language which can be possible only if the speaker contributes for it.
- 2. **Inform the language expert about the use of data**: It is important to inform the language expert about the usage of the data. Sometimes the language experts feel that the researchers are using their data for commercial purpose while the language experts are not getting any profits from it. So it is useful to let the experts know that the data is given by him/her, will be used only for the academic purpose.
  - In India, many communities are struggling to get different reservation status like SC communities fighting for getting the status of ST category and so on. In some fields, I found

**60** Lahiri (2018)

that the community members took me as representative of the government who is sent to investigate for some political information. The community members thought I was there to either politically support them or I was there to collect information for the government who will use those against the community. Both the cases were false. I was only there for the academic purpose. I had to convince them that I was there only for the academic reason. One should never give them false assurance or pretend to be from some institute or organisation which one doesn't belong to.

- 3. **Take permission:** One should always take permission before collecting data in any format. One should take permission of the individual involved before audio and video recording and also before clicking pictures of them or their belongings. Where children or non-adults are involved (under 18 years old for India) there permission from their guardian should be taken. A researcher may feel tempted to secretly record certain conversations or events but one should not do that. In case the situation needs quick action and does not give you time to take permission, like you have to click a picture and can't wait for the permission as then it might be too late then take the picture or record the moment without the permission but afterwards take the permission to carry it. If you do not get the permission then delete it. It is also advised to take permission of using the data for your purpose like for making a dictionary or writing grammar out of it.
- 4. **Do not force the language experts**: At times the language experts may not be ready to entertain you, then you need to leave them. You may request them but not force them in any way. You can't even be rude to them for not giving you time.
- 5. **Respect their rules:**Rules and customs vary from community to community. One may find certain customs or rules to be funny or weird but in all the circumstances when a researcher is in the community, she needs not only to follow those rules but also to respect those.
- 6. **Limit your time**: It is important to make the language expert feel comfortable in every possible way. At the same time, it is unethical to make the language expert exhausted. You should take breaks in between the sessions and let the language experts take rest and attend to their other needs.
- 7. **Pay for their loss:** When someone is sitting with you and giving you her time then one should get paid for that. The payment can be in the form of money or kinds. If some daily wage worker is giving her time by not going to her work then you should compensate for her loss. Data collection at the expense of the language expert is unethical.
  - Sometimes some language experts are young and they wish to have a certificate which can prove that they participated in the language documentation/data collection process. It is good to provide them with a certificate. This works as an encouragement as well as help them in different ways.

It is not only enough to be ethical in your work but it is also important to maintain a record of it. One may be ethical in the field but can be challenged afterwards about the ethics followed by her in the field. It may even be the case that the language expert by her wish agreed to give you data in the field but later refused to accept that. So to save oneself from these undesirable conditions it is important to document the ethical practices. Since it is not practical to document all of them, it is important to do so for the above-mentioned in points 1, 2 and 3. For this purpose, we carry a form written in the language which the language expert can understand. Since our work is based in West Bengal and most of the communities understand Bangla we carry the form in Bangla (find the attachment of the form below in Bangla and English). This form explains the nature and purpose of our work and seeks for permission to collect data as well as to use it. This form is read to the language experts and then signed by them as a symbol of granting permission. One copy is generally given to them. Sometimes they even insist on

taking pictures of the form which can be easily allowed.

After returning from the field, the researchers get busy with processing the field data. But while doing so some ethical practices are needed to be followed.

- 8. **Acknowledge:** It is important to acknowledge the language experts and the community from where the data has been collected. Details of the community members should not only be locked in the metadata but also be revealed in the research works and other publications in the form of acknowledgement.
- 9. **Do not misuse the data**: When you have collected the data (audio, video or photographs) exclusively for academic purpose then you can't use those for economic benefits. It is totally unethical to sell or use those for any type of non-academic purpose.
- 10. **Do not hurt the community:** It is very commonly found practice by the field researcher where a researcher goes to the field, collect information about a community and then misrepresent it. Sometimes the researchers misinterpret the various practices of the communities and sometimes they create rumours about the communities for gaining cheap popularity.
  - When we were collecting data of Kurmali then a language expert complained to me that whatever they say we misinterpret those and add our own flavours. He said that earlier someone cameto do research about their community. After his research, he published a book where he wrote that the Kurmis of Purulia perform Chau dance (a type of dance done with wearing a mask) wearing masks because they are dark coloured and so they need to wear a mask.
  - This type of statement makes the community hurt. The community members not only feel sad but also feel defensive and do not want to interact with the researchers in the future. One should always be very conscious while passing judgement. It is advisable to not make any negative statements about the community members which can hurt their sentiments.
- 11. **Give Back:** The researcher should try to give something back to the community. It may be in the form of a dictionary, grammar, primer or even picture books. Researchers not only need to create and publish these but also it is their job to make these available to the community members. One way of making them aware of the publications is by asking them to release the publication. This not only makes them happy but also encourages them to support such works in the future.

An Ethical form in English and Bangla or any other regional language needs to be composed.

## Journal Homepage: http://jjll.jdvu.ac.in/journal/index.php/JJLL



## Jadavpur Journal of Languages and Linguistics



## Picture Book:

## Collecting domain specific words in Natural languages

## Arup Majumder and Bornini Lahiri

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## 1. Fruits, Vegetables & Eatable Plants

Sl.	Pictures	Local/English terms	Target language in IPA
1.		Marua	
2.		Ritha	
3.		Supari	

Sl.	Pictures	Local/English terms	Target language in IPA
4.		Millet	
5.		Maize	
6.		Orange	
7.		Mushroom	
8.		Banana	
9.		Unripe Banana (Kacha Kola)	

Sl.	Pictures	Local/English terms	Target language in IPA
10.		Apple	
11.		Pineapple	
12.		Papaya	
13.		Lemon	
14.		Grape	
15.		Coconut	

Sl.	Pictures	Local/English terms	Target language in IPA
16.		Mango	
17.		Passion fruit	
18.		Cucumber	
19.		Bamboo	
20.		Drum Stick	

Sl.	Pictures	Local/English terms	Target language in IPA
21.		Lal Saag	
22.		PalangSaag (Collect names of other types of Saag)	
23.		Sweet Potato	
24.		Potato	
25.		Onion	

S1.	Pictures	Local/English terms	Target language in IPA
26.		Spring onion	
27.		Carrot	
28.		Radish	
29.		Beet root	
30.		Red Chilly Green Chilly	

Sl.	Pictures	Local/English terms	Target language in IPA
31.		Garlic	
32.		Ginger	
33.		Lady's finger	
34.		Brinjal	
35.		Pumpkin	

Sl.	Pictures	Local/English terms	Target language in IPA
36.		Bitter Gourd	
37.		Gourd	
38.		Jhinge	
39.		Cabbage	
40.		Paan Leaf	

# 2. Body Parts 2.1 External Body Parts

2.1 External Body Parts				
Sl.	Pictures (External Body Parts)	Local/English Terms	Target Language in IPA	
1.	3	Head		
2.		Forehead		
3.		Hair		
		Hair Plaits		
4.		Parting of hair		
5.		Bald		

Sl.	Pictures (External Body Parts)	Local/English Terms	Target Language in IPA
6.		Cheek	
7.		Nose	
8.		Nostril	
9.		Eye	
10.		Eyelash	
11.		Eyebrow	
12.		Eyeball	

Sl.	Pictures (External Body Parts)	Local/English Terms	Target Language in IPA
13.		Lips	
14.		Tongue	
15.		Teeth	
16.		Chin	
17.		Moustache	
18.		Beard	

S1.	Pictures (External Body Parts)	Local/English Terms	Target Language in IPA
19.		Ear	
20.		Throat	
21.	G	Back of Neck	
22.		Shoulder	
23.	The state of the s	Hand	
24.		Palm	

Sl.	Pictures (External Body Parts)	Local/English Terms	Target Language in IPA
25.		Thumb	
26.		Nail	
27.		Knuckle	
28.		Punch	
29.		Wrist	

Sl.	Pictures (External Body Parts)	Local/English Terms	Target Language in IPA
30.		Elbow	
31.		Armpit	
32.		Chest	
33.		Belly	
34.		Navel	

Sl.	Pictures (External Body Parts)	Local/English Terms	Target Language in IPA
35.		Back	
36.		Waist	
37.		Leg	
38.		Thigh	
39.		Foot	

Sl.	Pictures (External Body Parts)	Local/English Terms	Target Language in IPA
40.		Knee	
41.		Heel	
42.	المعامل	Toe (if possible collect names of other fingers of leg)	
43.		Sole	

## 2.2 Internal Body Parts

Sl.	Pictures	Local/English terms	Target language in IPA
1.		Brain	

Sl.	Pictures	Local/English terms	Target language in IPA
2.		Heart	
3.		Stomach	
4.	GHO	Kidney	
5.		Liver	
6.		Lungs	

## 2.3 Skeleton related words

S1.	Parts of Human Skeleton	English name	Target in IPA
-----	-------------------------	--------------	---------------

1.		Skull	
2.		Pelvis	
3.	A Held Hall to the same of the	Vertbral Column	
4.		Mandible	

## 2.4 About teeth



collect terms for Incisor Molar Premolar Canine

## 3. Various Locations

Sl.	Pictures	Target Data	Target language in IPA
1.		Where is the pot?  The pot is <b>on</b> the girl's head	
2.		Where is the pot? The pot is <b>on</b> the fire/stove Where is the woman sitting? Woman is sitting <b>beside</b> the stove	
3.		Where is the man standing? The man is <b>infront of</b> the house	
4.		Where are the eggs? Eggs are in the basket	

S1.	Pictures	Target Data	Target language in IPA
5.		Where are the oranges? Oranges in the tree	
6.		Where is the man?  Man is <b>under</b> the tree	
7.		Where is the flower? Flower plant is <b>beside</b> the house	
8.		Huts are side by side	
9.		Baby is standing <b>near</b> the bed	

Sl.	Pictures	Target Data	Target language in IPA
10.		Bed is <b>in</b> the house	
11.		Girl is <b>in</b> the house	
12.		Dog is sitting <b>outside</b> the hut	
13.		Hill is <b>behind</b> the building	

S1.	Pictures	Target Data	Target language in IPA
14.		Baby is <b>in</b> the lap	
15.		Boys are <b>on</b> the tree	
16.		1. Bus is <b>on</b> the bridge.	
		2. Bridge is <b>on</b> the river	
17.		Where is the waterfall?	

Sl.	Pictures	Target Data	Target language in IPA
18.		Where is the plant?	
19.		Where is the kite?	
20.		Where is the child sitting? The child is sitting in between a girl and a boy	